

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

November 2008

(A) COST OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS FOR A FAMILY OF SIX IN LUSAKA

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	57,300	3 x 25 Kg bags	171,900
Beans	10,900	2 Kgs	21,800
Kapenta (Siavonga)	39,000	2 Kgs	78,000
Dry Fish	57,500	1 Kg	57,500
Meat (mixed cut)	17,000	4 Kgs	68,000
Eggs	6,100	2 Units	12,200
Vegetables (greens)	5,300	7.5 Kgs	39,750
Tomato	3,900	4 Kgs	15,600
Onion	4,200	4 Kgs	16,800
Milk (fresh)	9,800	1 x 2 litres	9,500
Cooking oil	28,900	2 x 2 litres	57,800
Bread	3,400	1 loaf/day	102,000
Sugar	5,300	8 Kgs	42,400
Salt	2,600	1 Kg	2,600
Tea (leaves)	10,000	1 x 500 g	10,000
Sub-total			K705, 850

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	72,500	2 x 90 Kg bags	145,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,700	10 tablets	17,000
Wash soap (Boom)	3,700	4 x 400 g	14,800
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	7,400	1 x 500 ml	7,400
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
Sub-total			K1, 208,600

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K1, 914,450

Totals from previous months	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08
Amount	1,598,450	1,636,900	1,835,300	1,870,650	1,880,300	1,939,800	1,931,350	1,941,350	1,893,150	1,834,100	1,828,100	1,854,850

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K252,000 – K380,000	Chilenje-Town	K5,800
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K465,000 – K600,000	Chelston-Town	K6,800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K75,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K5,000
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5,000	Petrol (per litre)	K7,699
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K7,262
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,995

“The government should introduce Community Hammer Mills to address high mealie meal prices”... Kanyama resident

(D) SOME COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF WAGES—“TAKE HOME PAY”

	Teacher	Nurse	Guard with Security Firm	Secretary in Civil Service	Average Monthly Income in Urban Low-Cost Area - CSO	Piecoworker on a Farm
Pay Slip	K841,000 to K1,485,000	K936,000 to K2,624,000	K250,000 to K750,000	K817,000 to K1,480,000	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 27th November 2008 by the Social Conditions Programme of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. Average prices were calculated on the basis of prices gathered from retail outlets at Northmead, Shoprite (Katue Road), City Market, Chawama, Chaidna, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The November Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$425 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4502 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of November.

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